SUKUSUKU OTOKONOKO

CHAPTER 03

BROUGHT TO YOU BY INTERCROSS!

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ADULT-LIKE?
WHAT DOES THE WORLD LOOK LIKE FROM BEING 180CM IN THE AIR?
A staggering 180cm
RIVAL OR SNIPER OR WHATEVER.
THIS CLASSMATE IS A REAL MYSTERY.

THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR HEIGHTS IS 26CM.
NO, IT'S NOT!
21CM! 21CM!
THAT'S 5CM TOO MUCH!!!

EH? REALLY?
READ IT!
154CM IN MAY, 159CM IN JULY,
I wrote it down.
AND NOW, NOVEMBER 22,

I'M 159CM TALL.
But my sleeves are still too long!
WOW...
YOU'VE REALLY GROWN.

IS THAT WHY YOU'VE BEEN EATING SO MUCH LATELY?
HM...
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IT'S AUTUMN?
OPENS
Good morning~
AKERI
HEY, HEY.

PISSED
YOU'RE LATE?
Hmm
Yeah, a little.
WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU COULDN'T DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR HAIR?
NO!!!
THIS!
I was making this!!!
It's for Natsuyuki-kun
FOR ME?
CAN I OPEN IT?
WHAT IS IT?

T/N: He's referring to himself by name here, which is common practice when a girl is in Japan as a means to sound cute, since it's something often done by young kids

Blush
No, no
HE'S A MAN.
YOU'LL BE A GOOD WIFE~~
HM...
THEN COULD IT BE THAT YOU MAKE YOUR OWN BENTO TOO?
U-
UM...
YOUR BENTO ALWAYS LOOKS SO DELICIOUS.

FOR THE BENTO I USUALLY JUST PUT TOGETHER WHATEVER'S AVAILABLE, SO
UH... UH...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S TRUE,
IT'S AAAALWAYS SO NEAT AFTER ALL
.....
THEN, WHY DON'T YOU MAKE HAJIME'S BENTO TOO, STARTING TOMORROW?
AKERI-CHAN?
HAJIME'S FOOD DOESN'T EVEN SURVIVE THE MORNING
WILL YOU?
REALLY?
AFTER ALL,
EH?!

Really, it'd be great if I were a girl.
AKERI-CHAN
Isn't that great?
IT'S LIKE BEING A GIRLFRIEND
AKIMOTO,
DON'T TAKE ANYTHING FROM AKERI'S BENTO TODAY, GOT IT?
A SNIPER?
The next day!
SEE?
I'm so happy!
HAJIME LOOKS LIKE...
HE REALLY THINKS YOU ARE.
A RIVAL?

HM?
WHY?
PLUS,
WHAT ARE YOU DOING GETTING HIM ANGRY? WHAT IF HE FAINTS AGAIN?
WHAT DOES AKIMOTO WANT TO DO, MESSING WITH AKIRI AND ME?
BECAUSE AKERI IS MAKING IT FOR ME TODAY
HM?
YOU'RE TREATING AKERI LIKE YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
Y'KNOW HAJIME
BUT YOU DO REALIZE THAT AKERI'S A GUY, RIGHT?

PULLS
ANY HARM BY IT
Then can you kiss him?
PRO...BABLY?
.....
THOUGH HE PROBABLY DOESN'T MEAN
Or how about even more extreme things?
Whisper
In your own guilty fantasies?
For example, using Akira-san...

PUSH
OW!
Wh-
What the hell are you saying?!
Ouch,!
Th-
That sort of thing, that sort of thing, that sort of thing,
FOR THAT SORT OF THING_
Ah...!
THAT SORT OF THING!!!

ANYWAYS,
AS I THOUGHT, YOU ALREADY UNDERSTAND
WHICH IS IT?
Ah, ah! I... have?
THAT TYPE OF THING IS NOT REAL DESIRE.
NOT YET.
AS FOR ME, EVERYDAY, I'M LIKE A MONKEY.
ONCE I HAVE KNOWN BODY WARMTH, THOUGH WITH GOOD INTENTIONS, I WILL WANT TO DO IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

Blush
NATSUYUKI-KUN
!
GOOD MORNING
UM,
HERE.
UM,
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME...
MAKING A BENTO, SO...
ACTUALLY,
FOR AKERI,
Holds tight

Sorry!
Sorry!
Akeri...
Is good at making snacks
But food! I -
I'm not the mother of the household. I just help out!
It looks like he tried to wrap it neatly.
Does this have tamagoyaki in it?
AH!
Bites
Hmmmmm...
Sorry if it doesn't taste good.
Unwraps
*Tamagoyaki is kind of like scrambled eggs

Freeze
WELL... YOUR SNACKS CERTAINLY TASTE BETTER.
.....
BUT,
THIS IS DEFINITELY EDIBLE
Thank God!
ALTHOUGH IT TASTES LIKE BACHELOR FOOD.
Ah!
ah!
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU MAKE THIS FOR ME
Thanks
IN ANY CASE,
YOUR SNACKS ARE AMAZING, SO I'M SURE YOU'LL GET BETTER AT THIS IN NO TIME
...
...Natsuyuki-kun

Wait.
SFX. Hugs
I love you.
Huh?
WHAT THE!
TSK!
HAJIME WAS TREATING AKERI LIKE THE PERFECT GIRL,
SO I THOUGHT THAT HE'D GET SICK OF YOU WHEN HE REALIZED YOU CAN'T COOK

W-WHY CARE, AKIMOTO.
I...
I know I'm not a girl, and my cooking is awful.
Then I'd get in between the two of you.
Has a soft spot for clumsy girls
EH?
S- BUT, ISN'T THIS CUTE?
IS THAT WHY YOU SAID SUCH BITING WORDS BEFORE?
But,
THEN, CAN YOU KISS HIM?
Natsuyuki-kun

Is Akeri's prince.
OR, HOW ABOUT EVEN MORE EXTREME THINGS?
Grabs
IF NATSUYUKI-KUN WANTS SOMETHING FROM AKERI,
THEN I...
YOU MEAN WITH THE GUY, AKERI?
No!
I'm fine!
I don't want anything!
Nothing, nothing, no desire.

Really, nothing!!!
W THE END_
DID I GET TRICKED BY AKIMOTO'S WORDS,
I WONDER
Natsuyuki-kun,
Is it OK if I make a bento for you again?
HM?
UH
YEAH, SNACKS TOO.
You WANT THE CRACKS MORE?
IT'S FINE,
BACHELOR FOOD.
HA HA HA.

THANKS FOR TODAY
I'VE GROWN TALLER BY 2 ONIGIRI'S WORTH TODAY,
THANKS TO AKERI.
IF THERE WAS SOMETHING,
THAT I WANTED FROM AKERI.
THAT WOULD BE_

Ba-thump
THIS FACE.
That's great
.....
AND THIS RESTLESSNESS
IT DEFINITELY ISN'T
THAT WEIRD TYPE OF THING THAT AKIMOTO WAS TALKING ABOUT
THOUGH WITH GOOD INTENTIONS

Wait,
Natsuyuki-kun
Surprise

Akeri's mom,
I..
Um...
U-
WOAH.
What?
Wh-
WHAT IS MY BODY GETTING ALL NERVOUS FOR?
When I was a child,
She wanted a girl

So,
She brought Akeri up like a girl
Akeri..
Didn't feel strange being brought up like that
But, that doesn't mean...
That Akeri wants to become a girl, or anything like that

Akeri's dated a girl before, you know?
Mm. After all.
OH?
IS THAT SO
HUH?
But I think
THAT IT WOULD BE GREAT IF MEN WERE AS CUTE AND PRETTY AS GIRLS!

Akeri would absolutely...
Um...
Wait! Just now,
Before that part about men, what was that?
You mean...
"I dated a girl before"?
That part?
HUH?
Really?
Yeah
She was my piano teacher when I was in middle school.
My mom found us in bed together,
And she was fired, and we never met again.

!!!
AKERI-CHAN,
IS AN 'ADULT'?!
BED?
HUH?!
WAIT. THEN...
EH?!
WAIT!
DOES NATSUYUKI-KUN HATE THAT KIND OF PERSON?!
SHAKE
DO YOU THINK THAT'S DIRTY?
But we loved each other
SHAKE

REALLY?
I don't...
I don't think so, but...
But...!
SO CLOSE!
BUT!
!
Surprised
.....!
."BUT, AS EXPECTED."

SFX. Ba-thump
SUDDENLY,
No-
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
But,
THAT AKERI-CHAN IS A GUY
Then,
ISN'T IT CHEATING TO SHOW THAT KIND OF EXPRESSION?
WERE YOU DISAPPOINTED THAT
I WASN'T A GIRL?

HOW DO I DO IT WITH AKERI?
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ADULT-LIKE?
grabs tightly
WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE EXPERIENCED?
... HUH?
THOUGH WITH GOOD INTENTIONS,

Sara: Seriously, it feels like Fishie and I thought the EXACT SAME THING when we saw this final image of Akimoto. he was surely doing something naughty just before. XD (See tissue box on top of his head. Seriously!)